

PHENYLALANINE DERIVATIVES

5 This invention relates to a series of phenylalanine derivatives, to compositions containing them, to processes for their preparation, and to their use in medicine.

10 Over the last few years it has become increasingly clear that the physical interaction of inflammatory leukocytes with each other and other cells of the body plays an important role in regulating immune and inflammatory responses [Springer, T. A. *Nature*, 346, 425, (1990); Springer, T. A. *Cell* 76, 301, (1994)]. Many of these interactions are mediated by specific cell surface molecules collectively referred to as cell adhesion molecules.

15 The adhesion molecules have been sub-divided into different groups on the basis of their structure. One family of adhesion molecules which is believed to play a particularly important role in regulating immune and inflammatory responses is the integrin family. This family of cell surface glycoproteins has a typical non-covalently linked heterodimer structure. At
20 least 14 different integrin alpha chains and 8 different integrin beta chains have been identified [Sonnenberg, A. *Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology*, 184, 7, (1993)]. The members of the family are typically named according to their heterodimer composition although trivial nomenclature is widespread in this field. Thus the integrin termed $\alpha_4\beta_1$
25 consists of the integrin alpha 4 chain associated with the integrin beta 1 chain, but is also widely referred to as Very Late Antigen 4 or VLA4. Not all of the potential pairings of integrin alpha and beta chains have yet been observed in nature and the integrin family has been subdivided into a number of subgroups based on the pairings that have been recognised
30 [Sonnenberg, A. *ibid*].

The importance of cell adhesion molecules in human leukocyte function has been further highlighted by a genetic deficiency disease called Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency (LAD) in which one of the families of
35 leukocyte integrins is not expressed [Marlin, S. D. *et al J. Exp. Med.* 164, 855 (1986)]. Patients with this disease have a reduced ability to recruit

leukocytes to inflammatory sites and suffer recurrent infections which in extreme cases may be fatal.

5 The potential to modify adhesion molecule function in such a way as to
beneficially modulate immune and inflammatory responses has been
extensively investigated in animal models using specific monoclonal
antibodies that block various functions of these molecules [e.g. Issekutz, T.
B. J. Immunol. 3394, (1992); Li, Z. *et al* Am. J. Physiol. 263, L723, (1992);
Binns, R. M. *et al* J. Immunol. 157, 4094, (1996)]. A number of
10 monoclonal antibodies which block adhesion molecule function are
currently being investigated for their therapeutic potential in human
disease.

15 One particular integrin subgroup of interest involves the α_4 chain which
can pair with two different beta chains β_1 and β_7 [Sonnenberg, A. *ibid*].
The $\alpha_4\beta_1$ pairing occurs on many circulating leukocytes (for example
lymphocytes, monocytes and eosinophils) although it is absent or only
present at low levels on circulating neutrophils. $\alpha_4\beta_1$ binds to an adhesion
molecule (Vascular Cell Adhesion Molecule-1 also known as VCAM-1)
20 frequently up-regulated on endothelial cells at sites of inflammation
[Osborne, L. Cell, 62, 3, (1990)]. The molecule has also been shown to
bind to at least three sites in the matrix molecule fibronectin [Humphries,
M. J. *et al*. Ciba Foundation Symposium, 189, 177, (1995)]. Based on
data obtained with monoclonal antibodies in animal models it is believed
25 that the interaction between $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and ligands on other cells and the
extracellular matrix plays an important role in leukocyte migration and
activation [Yednock, T. A. *et al*, Nature, 356, 63, (1992); Podolsky, D. K.
et al. J. Clin. Invest. 92, 373, (1993); Abraham, W. M. *et al*. J. Clin. Invest.
93, 776, (1994)].

30 The integrin generated by the pairing of α_4 and β_7 has been termed
LPAM-1 [Holzmann, B and Weissman, I. EMBO J. 8, 1735, (1989)] and
like $\alpha_4\beta_1$, binds to VCAM-1 and fibronectin. In addition, $\alpha_4\beta_7$ binds to an
adhesion molecule believed to be involved in the homing of leukocytes to
35 mucosal tissue termed MAdCAM-1 [Berlin, C. *et al*, Cell, 74, 185, (1993)].
The interaction between $\alpha_4\beta_7$ and MAdCAM-1 may also be important at

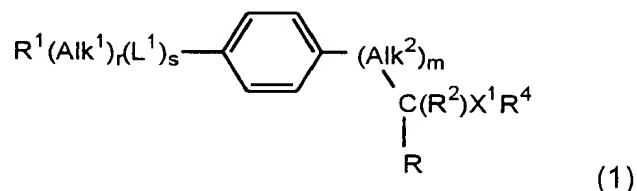
sites of inflammation outside of mucosal tissue [Yang, X-D. *et al*, PNAS, 91, 12604 (1994)].

Regions of the peptide sequence recognised by $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and $\alpha_4\beta_7$ when they
 5 bind to their ligands have been identified. $\alpha_4\beta_1$ seems to recognise LDV, IDA or REDV peptide sequences in fibronectin and a QIDSP sequence in VCAM-1 [Humphries, M. J. *et al*, *ibid*] whilst $\alpha_4\beta_7$ recognises a LDT sequence in MAdCAM-1 [Briskin, M. J. *et al*, J. Immunol. 156, 719, (1996)]. There have been several reports of inhibitors of these interactions
 10 being designed from modifications of these short peptide sequences [Cardarelli, P. M. *et al* J. Biol. Chem. 269, 18668, (1994); Shroff, H. N. Bioorganic. Med. Chem. Lett. 6, 2495, (1996); Vanderslice, P. J. Immunol. 158, 1710, (1997)]. It has also been reported that a short peptide sequence derived from the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ binding site in fibronectin can inhibit a
 15 contact hypersensitivity reaction in a trinitrochlorobenzene sensitised mouse [Ferguson, T. A. *et al*, PNAS 88, 8072, (1991)].

Since the alpha 4 subgroup of integrins are predominantly expressed on
 leukocytes inhibition of their ligand binding functions can be expected to be
 20 beneficial in a number of immune or inflammatory disease states. However, because of the ubiquitous distribution and wide range of functions performed by other members of the integrin family it is very important to be able to identify selective inhibitors of the alpha 4 subgroup.

25 We have now found a group of compounds which are potent and selective inhibitors of the binding of α_4 integrins to their ligands. Members of the group are able to inhibit the binding of α_4 integrins such as $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and/or $\alpha_4\beta_7$ to their ligands at concentrations at which they generally have no or minimal inhibitory action on α integrins of other subgroups. The
 30 compounds are thus of use in medicine, for example in the prophylaxis and treatment of immune or inflammatory disorders as described hereinafter.

Thus according to one aspect of the invention we provide a compound of
 35 formula (1)



wherein

R is a carboxylic acid (CO₂H) or a derivative thereof;

5 R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain:

L¹ is a linker atom or group;

10 r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 provided that when r is zero R¹ is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

15 R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO- (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

20 R⁴ is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof, for use in modulating cell adhesion.

25 The compounds of formula (1) are potent and selective inhibitors of the binding of α_4 integrins to their ligands. The ability of the compounds to act in this way may be simply determined by employing tests such as those described in the Examples hereinafter. In particular compounds of the invention are advantageously selective $\alpha_4\beta_1$ inhibitors

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The compounds of formula (1) are thus of use in modulating cell adhesion and in particular are of use in the prophylaxis and treatment of diseases or

disorders involving inflammation in which the extravasation of leukocytes plays a role. The invention extends to such a use and to the use of compounds of formula (1) for the manufacture of a medicament for treating such diseases or disorders. Diseases or disorders of this type include

5 inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis vasculitis or polydermatomyositis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses such as psoriasis or dermatitis, asthma and inflammatory bowel disease.

10 For the prophylaxis or treatment of disease the compounds of formula (1) may be administered as pharmaceutical compositions, and according to a further aspect of the invention we provide a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula (1) together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents, for use in

15 modulating cell adhesion, particularly in the prophylaxis and treatment of diseases or disorders involving inflammation as just described.

Pharmaceutical compositions for use according to the invention may take a form suitable for oral, buccal, parenteral, nasal, topical or rectal

20 administration, or a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation and the invention extends to the use of a compound of formula (1) in the manufacture of such formulations.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the

25 form of, for example, tablets, lozenges or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g. lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium glycollate); or wetting agents (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets

30 may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution

35 with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable

additives such as suspending agents, emulsifying agents, non-aqueous vehicles and preservatives. The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavouring, colouring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

- 5 Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

For buccal administration the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

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The compounds for formula (1) may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection e.g. by bolus injection or infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, e.g. in glass ampoules or multi dose containers, e.g. glass vials. The compositions for injection may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising, preserving and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

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In addition to the formulations described above, the compounds of formula (1) may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation or by intramuscular injection.

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For nasal administration or administration by inhalation, the compounds for use according to the present invention are conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation for pressurised packs or a nebuliser, with the use of suitable propellant, e.g. dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas or mixture of gases.

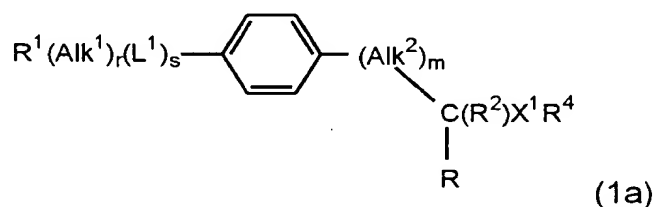
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The compositions may, if desired, be presented in a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the active ingredient. The pack or dispensing device may be accompanied by instructions for administration.

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The quantity of a compound of formula (1) required for the prophylaxis or treatment of a particular condition will vary depending on the compound chosen, and the condition of the patient to be treated. In general, however, effective daily dosages may range from around 100ng/kg to 100mg/kg e.g. around 0.01mg/kg to 40mg/kg body weight for oral or buccal administration, from around 10ng/kg to 50mg/kg body weight for parenteral administration and around 0.05mg to around 1000mg e.g. around 0.5mg to around 1000mg for nasal administration or administration by inhalation or insufflation.

Particular compounds of formula (1) form a further feature of the invention and in a further aspect we therefore provide a compound of formula (1a):



wherein

R is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H) or a derivative thereof;

R¹ is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a linker atom or group;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO- (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

- 5 It will be appreciated that compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) may have one or more chiral centres. Where one or more chiral centres is present, enantiomers or diastereomers may exist, and the invention is to be understood to extend to all such enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures thereof, including racemates. Formulae (1) and (1a) and the formulae
10 hereinafter are intended to represent all individual isomers and mixtures thereof, unless stated or shown otherwise.

- In the compounds of formulae (1) and (1a), derivatives of the carboxylic acid group R include carboxylic acid esters and amides. Particular esters
15 and amides include those $-CO_2R^{5a}$ and $-CON(R^{5a})_2$ groups described below.

- When in the compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) L^1 is present as a linker atom or group it may be any divalent linking atom or group. Particular
20 examples include $-O-$ or $-S-$ atoms or $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$ [where R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group], $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)SON(R^5)-$ or
25 $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)-$ groups. Where the linker group contains two R^5 substituents, these may be the same or different.

- Alk^2 in the compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) may be for example a straight or branched C_{1-3} alkylene chain. Particular examples include
30 $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$ and $-(CH_2)_2-$.

- When R^3 , R^{3a} and/or R^5 in the compounds of formula (1) is a straight or branched alkyl group it may be a straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group, e.g.
35 a C_{1-3} alkyl group such as a methyl or ethyl group.

When Alk¹ in compounds of formula (1) is an optionally substituted aliphatic chain it may be an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₀ aliphatic chain. Particular examples include optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene chains.

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Heteroaliphatic chains represented by Alk¹ include the aliphatic chains just described but with each chain additionally containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups. Particular heteroatoms or groups include atoms or groups L² where L² is as defined above for L¹ when L¹ is a linker atom or group. Each L² atom or group may interrupt the aliphatic chain, or may be positioned at its terminal carbon atom to connect the chain to the atom or group R¹.

Particular examples of aliphatic chains represented by Alk¹ include optionally substituted -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH(CH₃)-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -(CH₂)₂CH₂-, -CH(CH₃)CH₂-, -(CH₂)₃CH₂-, -CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂CH₂-, -(CH₂)₄CH₂-, -(CH₂)₅CH₂-, -CHCH-, -CHCHCH₂-, -CH₂CHCH-, -CHCHCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CHCHCH₂-, -(CH₂)₂CHCH-, -CC-, -CCCH₂-, -CH₂CC-, -CCCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CCCH₂-, or -(CH₂)₂CC- chains. Where appropriate each of said chains may be optionally interrupted by one or two atoms and/or groups L² to form an optionally substituted heteroaliphatic chain. Particular examples include optionally substituted -L²CH₂-, -CH₂L²CH₂-, -L²(CH₂)₂-, -CH₂L²(CH₂)₂-, -(CH₂)₂L²CH₂-, -L²(CH₂)₃- and -(CH₂)₂L²(CH₂)₂- chains.

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The optional substituents which may be present on aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chains represented by Alk¹ include one, two, three or more substituents selected from halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms, or hydroxyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, e.g. methoxy or ethoxy, thiol, C₁₋₆alkylthio e.g. methylthio or ethylthio, amino or substituted amino groups. Substituted amino groups include -NHR⁵ and -N(R⁵)₂ groups where R⁵ is a straight or branched alkyl group as defined above. Where two R⁵ groups are present these may be the same or different. Particular examples of substituted chains represented by Alk¹ include those specific chains just described substituted by one, two, or three halogen atoms such

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as fluorine atoms, for example chains of the type $-\text{CH}(\text{CF}_3)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CF}_3)-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CF}_3)-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{CH}_2$.

Alkoxy groups represented by R^1 in compounds of formula (1) include
 5 straight or branched C_{1-6} alkoxy groups such as methoxy and ethoxy groups.

When R^1 is present in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) as an
 optionally substituted cycloaliphatic group it may be an optionally
 10 substituted C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic group. Particular examples include
 optionally substituted C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, e.g. C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or C_{3-10}
 cycloalkenyl e.g. C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl groups.

Optionally substituted heterocycloaliphatic groups represented by R^1
 15 include the optionally substituted cycloaliphatic groups just described for
 R^1 but with each group additionally containing one, two, three or four
 heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups L^2 as just defined.

Optionally substituted polycycloaliphatic groups represented by R^1 include
 20 optionally substituted C_{7-10} bi- or tricycloalkyl or C_{7-10} bi- or tricycloalkenyl
 groups. Optionally substituted polyheterocycloaliphatic groups
 represented by R^1 include the optionally substituted polycycloalkyl groups
 just described, but with each group additionally containing one, two, three
 or four L^2 atoms or groups.

25 Particular examples of R^1 cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocyclo-
 aliphatic and polyheterocycloaliphatic groups include optionally substituted
 cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, 2-
 cyclobuten-1-yl, 2-cyclopenten-1-yl, 3-cyclopenten-1-yl, adamantyl,
 30 norbornyl, norbornenyl, pyrrolidine, e.g. 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolidinyl,
 pyrrolidinone, oxazolidinyl, oxazolidinone, dioxolanyl, e.g. 1,3-dioxolanyl,
 imidazolyl, e.g. 2-imidazolyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolyl, e.g. 2-
 pyrazolyl, pyrazolidinyl, thiazolyl, thiazolidinyl, pyranyl, e.g. 2- or 4-
 pyranyl, piperidinyl, piperidinone, 1,4-dioxanyl, morpholinyl, morpholinone,
 35 1,4-dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, oxazinyl, e.g. 2H-
 1,3-, 6H-1,3-, 6H-1,2-, 2H-1,2- or 4H-1,4- oxazinyl, 1,2,5-oxathiazinyl,

isoxazinyl, e.g. o- or p-isoxazinyl, oxathiazinyl, e.g. 1,2,5 or 1,2,6-oxathiazinyl, or oxadiazinyl e.g. 1,3,5-oxadiazinyl groups.

- The optional substituents which may be present on the R^1 cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic or polyheterocycloaliphatic groups include one, two, three or more substituents represented by R^6 , each R^6 substituent being selected from halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms, or C_{1-6} alkyl, e.g. methyl or ethyl, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, e.g. halomethyl or haloethyl such as difluoromethyl or trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted by hydroxyl, e.g. $-C(OH)(CF_3)_2$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, e.g. methoxy or ethoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkoxy, e.g. halomethoxy or haloethoxy such as difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethoxy, thiol, C_{1-6} alkylthio e.g. methylthio or ethylthio, or $-(Alk)_vR^7$ groups in which Alk is a straight or branched C_{1-3} alkylene chain, v is zero or an integer 1 and R^7 is a $-OH$, $-SH$, $-N(R^{5a})_2$, $-CN$, $-CO_2R^{5a}$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^{5a})_2$, $-CSN(R^{5a})_2$, $-COR^{5a}$, $-CSN(R^{5a})_2$, $-N(R^{5a})COR^{5a}$, $-N(R^{5a})CSR^{5a}$, $-SO_2N(R^{5a})_2$, $-N(R^{5a})SO_2R^{5a}$, $-N(R^{5a})CON(R^{5a})_2$, $-N(R^{5a})CSN(R^{5a})$ or $-N(R^{5a})SO_2N(R^{5a})_2$ group in which R^{5a} is an atom or group as defined herein for R^5 .
- In the compounds of formulae (1) and (1a), optionally substituted aromatic groups represented by the group R^1 include for example monocyclic or bicyclic fused ring C_{6-12} aromatic groups, such as phenyl, 1- or 2-naphthyl, 1- or 2-tetrahydronaphthyl, indanyl or indenyl groups, optionally substituted by one, two, three or more R^6 atoms or groups as just described for R^1 cycloaliphatic groups.

- Optionally substituted heteroaromatic groups, represented by the group R^1 in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) include for example optionally substituted C_{1-9} heteroaromatic groups containing for example one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atoms. In general, the heteroaromatic groups may be for example monocyclic or bicyclic fused ring heteroaromatic groups. Monocyclic heteroaromatic groups include for example five- or six-membered heteroaromatic groups containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atoms. Bicyclic heteroaromatic groups include for example nine- to thirteen-membered fused-ring

heteroaromatic groups containing one, two or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atoms.

Particular examples of heteroaromatic groups of these types include
 5 optionally substituted pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, N-C₁₋₆imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazole, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, 1,2,3-triazinyl, benzofuryl, [2,3-dihydro]-
 10 benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzotriazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzimidazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzopyranyl, [3,4-dihydro]benzopyranyl, quinazolinyl, naphthyridinyl, pyrido[3,4-b]pyridyl, pyrido[3,2-b]pyridyl, pyrido[4,3-b]pyridyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrazolyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, and imidyl,
 15 e.g. succinimidyl, phthalimidyl, or naphthalimidyl such as 1,8-naphthalimidyl.

Optional substituents which may be present on R¹ heteroaromatic groups include one, two, three or more R⁶ atoms or groups as described above
 20 for R¹ cycloaliphatic groups.

Particular aliphatic groups represented by R⁴ in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) include optionally substituted C₁₋₁₀aliphatic groups. Particular examples include optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl or C₂₋₆alkynyl groups. Optional substituents include one, two or
 25 three substituents, where each substituent may be the same or different and is selected from halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms, or hydroxyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, e.g. methoxy or ethoxy, thiol, C₁₋₆alkylthio, e.g. methylthio or ethylthio, haloC₁₋₆alkoxy, e.g. fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy
 30 such as difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethoxy, -N(R^{5b})₂ [where R^{5b} is as defined above for R⁵], phenyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkoxy or C₃₋₇cycloalkenoxy groups.

Particular examples of R⁴ aliphatic groups include optionally substituted
 35 -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, -CH(CH₃)₂, -C(CH₃)₃, -(CH₂)₂CH₃, -(CH₂)₃CH₃, -CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)₃, -(CH₂)₄CH₃, -(CH₂)₅CH₃,

-CHCH₂, -CHCHCH₃, -CH₂CHCH₂, -CHCHCH₂CH₃, -CH₂CHCHCH₃,
 -(CH₂)₂CHCH₂, -CH₂CCCH₃ or -(CH₂)₂CCH groups.

When the group R⁴ in compounds of formula (1) or (1a) is an optionally
 5 substituted cycloaliphatic group it may be for example an optionally
 substituted C₃₋₁₀cycloaliphatic group. Particular examples include
 optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, e.g. C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₁₀
 cycloalkenyl, e.g. C₃₋₇cycloalkenyl groups. Optional substituents include
 one, two or three substituents, where each substituent may be the same or
 10 different and is selected from halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine, chlorine,
 bromine or iodine atoms, or hydroxyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy e.g. methoxy or ethoxy,
 thiol, C₁₋₆alkylthio, e.g. methylthio or ethylthio, C₁₋₆alkyl, e.g. methyl or
 ethyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl e.g. fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl such as difluoromethyl or
 trifluoromethyl, haloC₁₋₆alkoxy, e.g. fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy such as
 15 difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethoxy, phenyl or -N(R^{5b})₂ groups.

Particular examples of R⁴ cycloaliphatic groups include optionally
 substituted cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, 2-
 cyclobuten-1-yl, 2-cyclopenten-1-yl and 3-cyclopenten-1-yl groups.

20 Optionally substituted polycycloaliphatic groups represented by R⁴ in
 compounds of formula (1) or (1a) include optionally substituted C₇₋₁₀bi- or
 tricycloalkyl, e.g. norbornyl or adamantyl, or C₇₋₁₀bi- or tricycloalkenyl, e.g.
 norbornenyl groups. Optional substituents include one, two or three
 25 substituents as described above in relation to cycloaliphatic groups
 represented by R⁴.

The presence of certain substituents in the compounds of formula (1) may
 enable salts of the compounds to be formed. Suitable salts include
 30 pharmaceutically acceptable salts, for example acid addition salts derived
 from inorganic or organic acids, and salts derived from inorganic and
 organic bases.

Acid addition salts include hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, hydroiodides,
 35 alkylsulphonates, e.g. methanesulphonates, ethanesulphonates, or
 isothionates, arylsulphonates, e.g. p-toluenesulphonates, besylates or

napsylates, phosphates, sulphates, hydrogen sulphates, acetates, trifluoroacetates, propionates, citrates, maleates, fumarates, malonates, succinates, lactates, oxalates, tartrates and benzoates.

- 5 Salts derived from inorganic or organic bases include alkali metal salts such as sodium or potassium salts, alkaline earth metal salts such as magnesium or calcium salts, and organic amine salts such as morpholine, piperidine, dimethylamine or diethylamine salts.
- 10 Particularly useful salts of compounds according to the invention include pharmaceutically acceptable salts, especially acid addition pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

- 15 When present, the aliphatic chain represented by Alk^1 in compounds of the invention is preferably a $-\text{CH}_2-$ chain.

Alk^2 in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) is preferably a $-\text{CH}_2-$ chain and m is preferably an integer 1.

- 20 R^2 in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) is preferably a hydrogen atom.

R^3 and R^{3a} in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) is each preferably a hydrogen atom.

- 25 In general in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) $-(\text{Alk}^1)_r(\text{L}^1)_s-$ is preferably $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^5)-$, especially $-\text{CONH}-$.

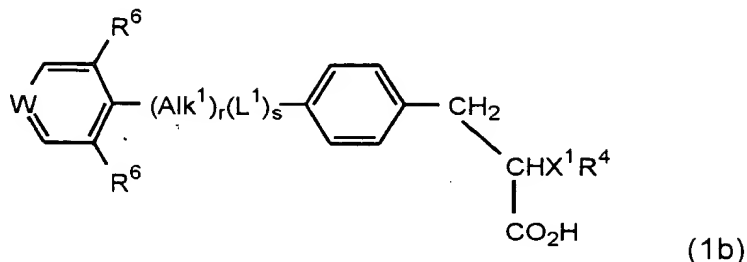
The group R in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) is preferably a carboxylic acid ($-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$) group.

30

In general in compounds of formulae (1) and (1a) the group R^1 is preferably an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group. Particularly useful groups of these types include optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl groups, particularly those in which the substituent when present is an atom or group R^6 as described above.

35

A particularly useful class of compounds according to the invention has the formula (1b)



wherein -W= is -CH= or -N=, each R⁶ group may be the same or different and is as generally defined above, and Alk¹, r, L¹, s, X¹ and R⁴ are as generally defined above, and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

In compounds of formula (1b) -(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s- is preferably a -CH₂O or -CON(R⁵)- group, especially a -CONH- group.

R⁴ in compounds according to formulae (1), (1a) and (1b) is preferably an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₃₋₇cycloalkyl or C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkyl group. Particular examples of such groups include optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₄alkyl groups as more particularly defined above in relation to compounds of formula (1a), and optionally substituted cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and adamantyl groups.

In one class of compounds according to formula (1), (1a) or (1b) X¹ is present as a -N(R³)CO- group where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group. In compounds of this type R⁴ may for example be an optionally substituted aliphatic or cycloaliphatic group. In general compounds in which X¹ is a -NHCO- group are particularly useful.

Particularly useful compounds according to the invention include:

N-Isopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Acetyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

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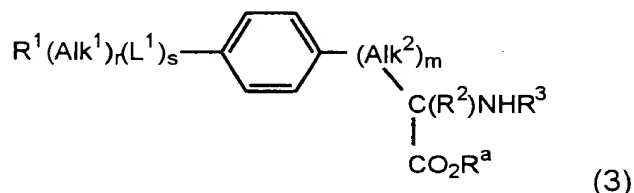


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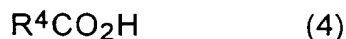
The hydrolysis may be performed using either an acid or a base depending on the nature of R^a , for example an organic acid such as

trifluoroacetic acid or an inorganic base such as lithium hydroxide optionally in an aqueous organic solvent such as an amide, e.g. a substituted amide such as dimethylformamide, an ether, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane or an alcohol, e.g. methanol at around ambient temperature. Where desired, mixtures of such solvents may be used.

Esters of formula (2) may be prepared by coupling an amine of formula (3):



(where R^a is as just described) or a salt thereof with an acid of formula (4):



or an active derivative thereof, a chloroformate $\text{R}^4\text{CO}_2\text{Cl}$, a sulphonyl halide $\text{R}^4\text{SO}_2\text{Hal}$ (where Hal is a halogen atom such as a chlorine atom) or an isocyanate R^4NCO .

Active derivatives of acids of formula (4) include anhydrides, esters and halides. Particular esters include pentafluorophenyl or succinyl esters.

The coupling reaction may be performed using standard conditions for reactions of this type. Thus for example the reaction may be carried out in a solvent, for example an inert organic solvent such as an amide, e.g. a substituted amide such as dimethylformamide, an ether, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran, or a halogenated hydrocarbon, such as dichloromethane, at a low temperature, e.g. around -30°C to around ambient temperature, optionally in the presence of a base, e.g. an organic base such as an amine, e.g. triethylamine, pyridine, or dimethylaminopyridine, or a cyclic amine, such as N-methylmorpholine.

- Where an acid of formula (4) is used, the reaction may additionally be performed in the presence of a condensing agent, for example a diimide such as 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide or N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, advantageously in the presence of a catalyst such as a
- 5 N-hydroxy compound e.g. a N-hydroxytriazole such as 1-hydroxybenzotriazole. Alternatively, the acid may be reacted with a chloroformate, for example ethylchloroformate, prior to reaction with the amine of formula (3).
- 10 Intermediates of formulae (2), (3) and (4), or compounds of formula (1), may be manipulated to introduce substituents to aromatic or heteroaromatic groups or modify existing substituents in groups of these types. Typically, such manipulation may involve standard substitution approaches employing for example alkylation, arylation, heteroarylation,
- 15 acylation, thioacylation, halogenation, sulphonylation, nitration, formylation or coupling reactions. Alternatively, existing substituents may be modified for example by oxidation, reduction or cleavage reactions. Particular examples of such reactions are given below.
- 20 Thus in one example, a compound wherein $R^1(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s$ is a $-L^1H$ group may be alkylated, arylated or heteroarylated using a reagent $R^1(Alk^1)_rX$ in which R^1 is other than a hydrogen atom and X is a leaving atom or group such as a halogen atom, e.g. a fluorine, bromine, iodine or chlorine atom or a sulphonyloxy group such as an alkylsulphonyloxy, e.g. trifluoro-
- 25 methylsulphonyloxy or arylsulphonyloxy, e.g. p-toluenesulphonyloxy group.

The reaction may be carried out in the presence of a base such as a carbonate, e.g. caesium or potassium carbonate, an alkoxide, e.g. potassium t-butoxide, or a hydride, e.g. sodium hydride, in a dipolar aprotic

30 solvent such as an amide, e.g. a substituted amide such as dimethylformamide or an ether, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran.

In another example, a compound where $R^1(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s$ is a $-L^1H$ group is a

35 hydrogen atom may be functionalised by acylation or thioacylation, for example by reaction with a reagent $R^1(Alk^1)_rL^1X$ [wherein L^1 is a $-C(O)-$,

C(S)-, -N(R⁴)C(O)- or N(R⁴)C(S)- group], in the presence of a base, such as a hydride, e.g. sodium hydride or an amine, e.g. triethylamine or N-methylmorpholine, in a solvent such as a halogenated hydrocarbon, e.g. dichloromethane or carbon tetrachloride or an amide, e.g. dimethylformamide, at for example ambient temperature, or by reaction with R¹(Alk¹)_rCO₂H or an activated derivative thereof, for example as described above for the preparation of esters of formula (2).

In a further example a compound may be obtained by sulphonylation of a compound where R¹(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s is an -OH group by reaction with a reagent R¹(Alk¹)_rL¹Hal [in which L¹ is -S(O)- or -SO₂- and Hal is a halogen atom such as chlorine atom] in the presence of a base, for example an inorganic base such as sodium hydride in a solvent such as an amide, e.g. a substituted amide such as dimethylformamide at for example ambient temperature.

In another example, a compound where R¹(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s is a -L¹H group, may be coupled with a reagent R¹OH (where R¹ is other than a hydrogen atom) or R¹Alk¹OH in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran in the presence of a phosphine, e.g. triphenylphosphine and an activator such as diethyl, diisopropyl- or dimethylazodicarboxylate to yield a compound containing a R¹(Alk¹)_rO- group.

In a further example, ester groups -CO₂R⁴ or -CO₂Alk⁴ in compounds of formula (1) may be converted to the corresponding acid [-CO₂H] by acid- or base-catalysed hydrolysis depending on the nature of the group R⁴ or Alk⁴. Acid- or base-catalysed hydrolysis may be achieved for example by treatment with an organic or inorganic acid, e.g. trifluoroacetic acid in an aqueous solvent or a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid in a solvent such as dioxane or an alkali metal hydroxide, e.g. lithium hydroxide in an aqueous alcohol, e.g. aqueous methanol.

In a second example, -OR⁷ [where R⁷ represents an alkyl group such as methyl group] groups in compounds of formula (1) may be cleaved to the corresponding alcohol -OH by reaction with boron tribromide in a solvent

such as a halogenated hydrocarbon, e.g. dichloromethane at a low temperature, e.g. around -78°C .

- Alcohol [-OH] groups may also be obtained by hydrogenation of a
- 5 corresponding $-\text{OCH}_2\text{R}^7$ group (where R^7 is an aryl group) using a metal catalyst, for example palladium on a support such as carbon in a solvent such as ethanol in the presence of ammonium formate, cyclohexadiene or hydrogen, from around ambient to the reflux temperature. In another example, -OH groups may be generated from the corresponding ester [-
- 10 CO_2Alk^4 or CO_2R^4] or aldehyde [-CHO] by reduction, using for example a complex metal hydride such as lithium aluminium hydride or sodium borohydride in a solvent such as methanol.

- In another example, alcohol -OH groups in compounds of formula (1) may
- 15 be converted to a corresponding $-\text{OR}^3$ group by coupling with a reagent R^7OH in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran in the presence of a phosphine, e.g. triphenylphosphine and an activator such as diethyl-, diisopropyl-, or dimethylazodicarboxylate.

- 20 Aminosulphonylamino [$-\text{NHSO}_2\text{NH}_2$] groups in compounds of formula (1) may be obtained, in another example, by reaction of a corresponding amine [$-\text{NH}_2$] with sulphamide in the presence of an organic base such as pyridine at an elevated temperature, e.g. the reflux temperature.

- 25 In a further example amine ($-\text{NH}_2$) groups may be alkylated using a reductive alkylation process employing an aldehyde and a borohydride, for example sodium triacetoxyborohydride or sodium cyanoborohydride, in a solvent such as a halogenated hydrocarbon, e.g. dichloromethane, a ketone such as acetone, or an alcohol, e.g. ethanol, where necessary in
- 30 the presence of an acid such as acetic acid at around ambient temperature.

- In a further example, amine [$-\text{NH}_2$] groups in compounds of formula (1) may be obtained by hydrolysis from a corresponding imide by reaction with
- 35 hydrazine in a solvent such as an alcohol, e.g. ethanol at ambient temperature.

In another example, a nitro [-NO₂] group may be reduced to an amine [-NH₂], for example by catalytic hydrogenation using for example hydrogen in the presence of a metal catalyst, for example palladium on a support
 5 such as carbon in a solvent such as an ether, e.g. tetrahydrofuran or an alcohol e.g. methanol, or by chemical reduction using for example a metal, e.g. tin or iron, in the presence of an acid such as hydrochloric acid.

Aromatic halogen substituents in compounds of the invention may be
 10 subjected to halogen-metal exchange with a base, for example a lithium base such as n-butyl or t-butyl lithium, optionally at a low temperature, e.g. around -78°C, in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran and then quenched with an electrophile to introduce a desired substituent. Thus, for example,
 15 a formyl group may be introduced by using dimethylformamide as the electrophile; a thiomethyl group may be introduced by using dimethyldisulphide as the electrophile.

In another example, sulphur atoms in compounds of the invention, for
 example when present in the linker group L¹ may be oxidised to the
 20 corresponding sulfoxide using an oxidising agent such as a peroxy acid, e.g. 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid, in an inert solvent such as a halogenated hydrocarbon, e.g. dichloromethane, at around ambient temperature.

Intermediates of formulae (3) and (4), R⁴CO₂Cl, R⁴SO₂Hal, R⁴NCO,
 25 R¹(Alk¹)_rX, R¹(Alk¹)_rL¹X, R¹(Alk¹)_rCO₂H, R¹OH and R¹Alk¹OH are either known compounds or may be prepared from known starting materials by use of analogous processes to those used for the preparation of the known compounds and/or by treating known compounds by one or more of the alkylation, acylation and other manipulations described herein.

30 N-oxides of compounds of formula (1) may be prepared for example by oxidation of the corresponding nitrogen base using an oxidising agent such as hydrogen peroxide in the presence of an acid such as acetic acid, at an elevated temperature, for example around 70°C to 80°C, or alternatively
 35 by reaction with a peracid such as peracetic acid in a solvent, e.g. dichloromethane, at ambient temperature.

Salts of compounds of formula (1) may be prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (1) with an appropriate base in a suitable solvent or mixture of solvents e.g. an organic solvent such as an ether e.g. diethylether, or an alcohol, e.g. ethanol using conventional procedures.

Where it is desired to obtain a particular enantiomer of a compound of formula (1) this may be produced from a corresponding mixture of enantiomers using any suitable conventional procedure for resolving enantiomers.

Thus for example diastereomeric derivatives, e.g. salts, may be produced by reaction of a mixture of enantiomers of formula (1) e.g. a racemate, and an appropriate chiral compound, e.g. a chiral base. The diastereomers may then be separated by any convenient means, for example by crystallisation and the desired enantiomer recovered, e.g. by treatment with an acid in the instance where the diastereomer is a salt.

In another resolution process a racemate of formula (1) may be separated using chiral High Performance Liquid Chromatography. Alternatively, if desired a particular enantiomer may be obtained by using an appropriate chiral intermediate in one of the processes described above.

The following Examples illustrate the invention. All temperatures are in °C. The following abbreviations are used:

EDC - 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)3-ethylcarbodiimide;	
DMF - dimethylformamide;	HOBT - 1-hydroxybenzotriazole;
NMM - N-methylmorpholine;	Boc - <u>tert</u> -butoxycarbonyl;
DMSO - dimethylsulphoxide;	Ar - aryl;
Et - ethyl;	

INTERMEDIATE 1 used in the following Examples is N-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester prepared from 3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl chloride and N-Boc-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester.

INTERMEDIATE 2**N-Boc-N'-(2,6-Difluorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

A mixture of 2,6-difluorobenzoic acid (10g, 63.3mmol) and DMF (3 drops)
 5 in dichloromethane (150ml) was treated with thionyl chloride (23ml, 316.5mmol). The mixture was heated at reflux overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue azeotroped (toluene 3 x 50ml) to give 2,6-difluorobenzoyl chloride as an oil (8.59g, 77%). N-Boc-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester (100.92g, 40.6mmol) and NMM (5.3ml,
 10 48.7mmol) were added to a solution of the above acid chloride in DMF (50ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and aqueous. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100ml). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated
 15 *in vacuo* to give a pale brown oily solid. Trituration with ether gave the title compound as a white solid (6.93g). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 7.67-7.53 (3H, m), 7.27-7.20 (5H, m), 4.19-4.11 (1H, m), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.00-2.73 (2H, m), 1.33 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 457 (M^+ +Na).

INTERMEDIATE 3**N'-(2,6-Difluorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride**

A slurry of Intermediate 2 (6.93g) in 1M HCl/ethyl acetate (100ml) was stirred at room temperature for 3h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*,
 25 ethyl acetate was added to the residue and the solid filtered off and dried to give the title compound as a white solid (6.0g). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.86 (1H, s), 8.73 (2H, br s), 7.65 (2H, d, J 6.5Hz), 7.63-7.55 (1H, m), 7.26-7.21 (4H, m), 4.23 (1H, t, J 6.6Hz), 3.70 (3H, s), 3.17-3.12 (2H, m); m/z (ESI, 70V) 335 (M^+ +H).

30

INTERMEDIATE 4**N-(Trimethylacetyl)-L-4-nitrophenylalanine methyl ester**

Trimethylacetyl chloride (17.75ml, 1.1eq) was added dropwise over 15min to a solution of L-4-nitrophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride (30g, 131mmol) and NMM (31.7ml, 2.2eq) in DMF (300ml) at 0°.
 35 Dimethylaminopyridine (catalytic) was added and the reaction mixture

stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate (500ml). This solution was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ (300ml), citric acid (10%, 2 x 300ml), aqueous NaHCO₃ (500ml) and brine (500ml), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a brown oil (34.15g, 85%) δ_H (CDCl₃) 8.1 (2H, d, \downarrow 9.0Hz), 7.26 (2H, d, \downarrow 9.0Hz), 6.16 (1H, m), 4.8 (1H, q), 3.72 (3H, s), 3.3 (1H, m), 3.2 (1H, m), 1.13 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 309 ($M^+ + H$).

10 INTERMEDIATE 5

N-(Trimethylacetyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

Palladium on charcoal (10% Pd, 3.0g) was added to solution of Intermediate 4 (34.15g, 110mmol) in methanol (1000ml) (degassed and under N₂). The mixture was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (balloon) at room temperature overnight. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound (28.32g, 92%). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 7.5 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 6.84 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 6.45 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 4.85 (2H, t), 4.29 (1H, m), 3.59 (3H, s), 2.8 (2H, m); m/z (ESI, 70V) 279 ($M^+ + H$).

20

INTERMEDIATE 6

N-Boc-*O*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinyl)-*L*-tyrosine methyl ester

A mixture of *N*-Boc-*L*-tyrosine methyl ester (11.95g, 40.57mmol), 3,5-dichloro-4-bromomethyl pyridine (see International Patent Application No. PCT/GB99/00589; 10.74g, 44.56mmol) and caesium carbonate (14.52g, 44.56mmol) in DMF (100ml) was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic layer was washed with citric acid (10% x 2), aqueous NaHCO₃ (x 2) and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a brown solid (18.0g, 98%). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 8.72 (2H, s), 7.25 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.2Hz), 7.19 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 6.97 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 5.20 (2H, s), 4.13 (1H, m), 3.61 (3H, s), 2.95 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 5.0Hz), 2.82 (1H, m), 1.32 (9H, s) m/z (ESI, 60V) 477 ($M^+ + H$).

INTERMEDIATE 7***O*-(3,5-Dichloroisonicotinyl)-*L*-tyrosine methyl ester hydrochloride**

Hydrochloric acid (4M in ethyl acetate, 100ml) was added to a solution of Intermediate 6 (18g, 39.6mmol) in ethyl acetate (100ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 90min. The solid formed was filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate and dried to give the title compound as a light brown solid (14.6g). δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 8.79-8.60 (3H, including 2H,s), 7.20 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 7.00 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 7.3-6.9 (2H, v br), 5.21 (2H, s), 4.34-4.20 (1H, m), 3.67 (3H, s), 3.22-3.05 (2H, m); m/z (ESI, 60V) 355 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 1***N*-Isopropaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

Intermediate 1, hydrochloride salt (1.24mmol) in DMF (10ml) was treated successively with NMM (1.1 equivalents, 1.37mmol), isopropaloyl chloride (1.1 equivalents, 1.37mmol) and a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine. The reaction was stirred at 20° for 16h and evaporated to dryness. The residue was partitioned between 50% sodium hydrogen carbonate and ethyl acetate and the organics washed with 10% citric acid, brine and dried ($MgSO_4$). Evaporation gave the title compound as a white solid. Yield 50%. 1H NMR [$(CD_3)_2SO$] δ_H 10.85 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 8.15 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.22 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.45 (1H, m), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.01 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 5.4Hz), 2.88 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 9.4Hz), 2.39 (1H, quint, \downarrow 6.8Hz), 0.96 (3H, d, \downarrow 6.8Hz) and 0.90 (3H, d, \downarrow 6.8Hz). m/z (ES+ 60V) 462, 460 (MNa^+ , 12, 22%), 440, 438 (MH^+ , 71, 100%).

The following compounds of Examples 2 - 4 were prepared in a similar manner:

EXAMPLE 2***N*-Cyclopropaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

from Intermediate 1, hydrochloride salt and cyclopropanecarbonyl chloride. Yield 45%. 1H NMR [$(CD_3)_2SO$] δ_H 10.87 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, s), 8.51 (1H, d, \downarrow 7.8Hz), 7.57 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.48 (1H, m), 3.62

(3H, s), 3.00 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 5.7Hz), 2.89 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 8.9Hz), 1.62 (1H, m) and 0.63 (4H, m). m/z (ES+ 60V) 460, 458 (MNa^+ , 15, 25%), 438, 436 (MH^+ , 63, 100%).

5 EXAMPLE 3

N-Pivaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

from Intermediate 1, hydrochloride salt and pivaloyl chloride. Yield 44%. 1H NMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δ H 10.8 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, s), 7.71 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.2Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.44 (1H, m), 3.63 (3H, s), 3.06 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 5.4Hz), 2.97 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 9.6Hz) and 1.04 (9H, s). m/z (ES+ 160V) 476, 474 (MNa^+ , 6, 10%), 454, 452 (MH^+ , 60, 100%).

EXAMPLE 4

15 *N*-(η Propanoyl)-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

Prepared from Intermediate 1, hydrochloride salt and valeryl chloride as a white solid. δ H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.85 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, s), 8.20 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.22 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.49 (1H, m), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.02 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 5.3Hz), 2.85 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 9.6Hz), 2.06 (2H, t, \downarrow 7.3Hz), 1.38 (2H, m), 1.14 (2H, m), 0.80 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.2Hz); m/z (ESI, 160V) 452 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 5

25 *N*-Isopropaloyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine.

A solution of the compound of Example 1 (0.5mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (8ml) and water (6ml) was treated with lithium hydroxide dihydrate (1.5 equivalents, 0.75mmol) and stirred for 4h at 20°. The reaction was adjusted to pH2 with 2M hydrochloric acid and evaporated to dryness. Trituration of the residue with water gave the title compound as a white solid. Yield 90%. m.p. 257-258°. 1H NMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δ H 8.79 (2H, s), 8.00 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.1Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.40 (1H, m), 3.03 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 4.9Hz), 2.86 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 9.4Hz), 2.39 (1H, quint, \downarrow 6.8Hz), 0.95 (3H, d, \downarrow 6.8Hz) and 0.89 (3H, d, \downarrow 6.8Hz). m/z (ES+, 60V) 448, 446 (MNa^+ , 9, 13%), 426, 424 (MH^+ , 66, 100%).

The following compounds of Examples 5 - 8 were prepared in a similar manner:

5 **EXAMPLE 6**

N-Cyclopropaloyl-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine

from the compound of Example 2. Yield 78%. m.p. 248-250°. ¹HNMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δH 8.79 (2H, s), 8.36 (1H, d, J 8.1Hz), 7.56 (2H, d, J 8.5Hz),
10 7.24 (2H, d, J 8.5Hz), 4.43 (1H, m), 3.02 (1H, dd, J 13.8, 52Hz) 2.86 (1H, dd, J 13.8, 9.1Hz) and 1.63 (1H, m). m/z (ES+, 60V), 446, 444 (MNa⁺, 13, 24%), 424, 422 (MH⁺, 66, 100%).

EXAMPLE 7

15 **N-Pivaloyl-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

from the compound of Exampal 3. Yield 88%. m.p. 125-128°. ¹HNMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δH 10.83 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 7.53 (3H, m), 7.23 (2H, d, J 8.5Hz), 4.40 (1H, m), 3.06 (1H, dd, J 13.7, 4.7Hz), 2.96 (1H, dd, J 13.6, 9.8Hz) and 1.03 (9H, s). m/z (ES+, 160V) 462, 460 (MNa⁺, 16, 25%), 440,
20 438 (MH⁺, 65, 100%).

EXAMPLE 8

N-(nPropanoyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine

25 from the compound of Example 4 as a white solid, m.p. 242-244°. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 12.62 (1H, br s), 10.85 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 8.06 (1H, d, J 8.2Hz), 7.56 (2H, d, J 8.5Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, J 8.5Hz), 4.43 (1H, m), 3.04 (1H, dd, J 13.7, 4.8Hz), 2.82 (1H, dd, J 9.8Hz), 2.05 (2H, t, J 7.2Hz), 1.38 (2H, m), 1.14 (2H, m), 0.80 (3H, t, J 7.2Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 438 (M⁺+H).

30

EXAMPLE 9

N-Acetyl-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

35 A mixture of Intermediate 1, hydrochloride salt (1.24mmol), HOBt (1.1 equivalents, 1.36mmol), NMM (2.2 equivalents, 0.3ml) and glacial acetic acid (1.05 equivalents, 74μl) were stirred together in DMF(10ml) during the

addition of EDC (1.1 equivalents, 1.36mmol) and then for 16h at 20°. The reaction was evaporated and partitioned between ethyl acetate and sodium hydrogen carbonate. The organic phase was washed successively with 10% citric acid (x 2), sodium hydrogen carbonate (x 1) and brine (x 1) and dried (MgSO₄). Evaporation gave the title compound as a pale lemon foam in 94% yield. ¹HNMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δH 10.01 (1H, s), 8.47 (2H, s), 7.54 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.01 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 6.47 (1H, d, \downarrow 7.9Hz), 4.75 (1H, m), 3.64 (3H, s), 2.99 (2H, m) and 1.90 (3H, s). m/z (ES+, 160V) 434, 432 (MNa⁺, 38, 54%), 410 (MH⁺, 69, 100%).

The following compound of Example 10 was prepared in a similar manner:

EXAMPLE 10

***N*-(1-Phenyl-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)-*N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

from *N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride and 1-phenyl-1-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 7.7-7.4 (6H, m), 7.32-6.92 (8H, m), 4.45 (1H, m), 3.55 (3H, s), 3.1-2.85 (2H, m), 2.6, 2.3 (4H, m), 1.9-1.6 (4H, m), m/z (ESI 60V) 539 (M⁺+H).

EXAMPLE 11

***N*-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine**

A solution of the compound of Example 9 (1.1mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (15ml) and water (12ml) was treated with lithium hydroxide (1.5 equivalents, 1.65mmol) and stirred for 16h at 20°. The reaction was adjusted to pH2 with 2M hydrochloric acid and evaporated down to a yellow oil. Trituration with water gave the title compound as an off-white solid in 65% yield. m.p. 198-202°. ¹HNMR [(CD₃)₂SO] δH 10.85 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 8.15 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.22 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 4.39 (1H, m), 3.00 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 5.0Hz) and 2.82 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 9.3Hz). m/z (ES+, 160V), 420, 418 (MNa⁺, 6,9%), 398, 396 (MH⁺, 47, 100%).

The following compound of Example 12 was prepared in a similar manner:

EXAMPLE 12**N-(1-Phenyl-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)-N'-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

from the compound of Example 10. δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 10.60 (1H, s), 7.59-7.16 (10H, m), 6.98 (2H, d, J 8.4Hz), 4.40 (1H, m), 3.30-2.7 (2H, m), 2.6-2.4 (4H, m), 1.9-1.5 (4H, m). m/z : (ESI, 60V) 525 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 13**N-(Trimethylacetyl)-N'-(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

Trimethylacetyl chloride (443 μ l, 3.6mmol) was added to a solution of Intermediate x 23 (1.11g, 3mmol) and NMM (395 μ l, 3.6mmol) in DMF (20ml) at 0°. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2h then poured into 1M hydrochloric acid. This mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50ml) and the combined extracts washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 x 100ml) and brine (100ml), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a white solid (740mg, 52%). δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 10.69 (1H, s), 7.68 (1H, d, J 8.0Hz), 7.67-7.53 (3H, m), 7.26-7.19 (4H, m), 4.46-4.39 (1H, m), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.08-2.88 (2H, m), 1.03 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 419 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 14**N-(Trimethylacetyl)-N'-(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

Prepared as a white solid. from the compound of Example 13 by ester hydrolysis in a similar manner to the compound of Example 5. m.p. 212-2.18°. δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 12.58 (1H, br s), 10.69 (1H, s), 7.62-7.48 (4H, m), 7.26-7.19 (4H, m), 4.43-4.35 (1H, m), 3.09-2.91 (2H, m), 1.03 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 405 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 15**N-Trimethylacetyl-N'-(2-chloronicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

Thionyl chloride (2.48ml, 10eq) and DMF (2 drops) were added to a solution of 2-chloronicotinic acid (535mg, 3.4mmol) in dichloromethane (3ml). The mixture was heated at reflux overnight then concentrated *in vacuo* and azeotroped with toluene (2 x 5ml) to give 2-chloronicotinoyl

chloride as a yellow oil. A solution of this acid chloride in dichloromethane (5ml) was added dropwise to a solution of Intermediate 5 (750mg, 2.69mmol) and NMM (355 μ l, 1.2eq) in dichloromethane (15ml) at 0°. Dimethylaminopyridine (catalytic) was added and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 2h. The mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (50ml) and washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 x 50ml). The organic phase was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound. δ_H (CDCl₃) 10.55 (1H, s), 8.51 (1H, m), 8.05 (1H, m), 7.67 (1H, m), 7.57 (3H, m), 7.2 (2H, m), 4.24 (1H, m), 3.62 (3H, s), 3.08 (2H, m), 1.03 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 418 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 16

N-(Trimethylacetyl)-*N'*-(2-chloronicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine

Prepared from the compound of Example 15 by ester hydrolysis using a similar method to the compound of Example 5. δ_H (CDCl₃) 12.7 (1H, br s), 10.58 (1H, s), 8.52 (1H, m), 8.06 (1H, m), 17.57 (4H, m), 7.21 (2H, m), 4.4 (1H, m), 3.02 (2H, m), 1.03 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 404 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 17

N-(Trimethylacetyl)-*N'*-(2-chloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

Carbon tetrachloride (1.32ml, 4eq) was added to a solution of 2-chloroisonicotinic acid (535mg, 3.4mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.07g, 1.2eq) in tetrahydrofuran (30ml) and the mixture stirred overnight. A solution of Intermediate 5 (1.13g, 1.2eq) in tetrahydrofuran (15ml) was then added to this crude acid chloride at 0°. NMM (355 μ l, 1.2eq) was added and the mixture stirred overnight. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate (50ml), washed with hydrochloric acid (2M, 2 x 10ml), aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 x 100ml), water and brine (200ml). The organic phase was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (SiO₂; ether/hexane, 9:1) gave the title compound as a white solid (290mg, 20%) δ_H (CDCl₃) 10.5 (1H, s), 9.6 (1H, d, J 5.0Hz), 7.9 (1H, s), 7.7 (1H, m), 7.6 (3H, m), 7.2 (2H, d, J 8.0Hz), 4.5 (1H, m), 3.63 (3H, s), 3.07 (2H, m), 1.05 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 70V) 418 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 18**N-(Trimethylactyl)-N'-(2-chloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

Prepared from the compound of Example 17 by ester hydrolysis using a similar method to the compound of Example 5. δ_H (CDCl₃) 12.6 (1H, br s CO₁H), 10.5 (1H, s, NH), 8.6 (1H, d); 8.05 (1H, s), 7.9 (1H, m), 7.7 (2H, m), 7.5 (1H, d), 7.3 (2H) 4.45 (1H, m), 3.05 (1H, m), 2.95 (1H, m), 1.2 (9H, s); m/z (ES⁺+ 70V); 4.04 (M^+ -H).

EXAMPLE 19**N-(Trimethylacetyl)-O-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-tyrosine methyl ester**

Trimethylacetyl chloride (406 μ l, 3.3mmol) was added to a solution of Intermediate 7 (1.17g, 3mmol) and NMM (725 μ l, 6.6mmol) in dichloromethane (50ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. Dichloromethane and citric acid (10%) were added, the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ (x 2) and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound (1.12g, 86%). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 8.71 (2H, s), 7.66 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.0Hz), 7.16 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 6.94 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 5.19 (2H, s), 4.45-4.37 (1H, m), 3.61 (3H, s), 3.05-2.89 (2H, m), 1.01 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 60V) 439 (M^+ +H).

EXAMPLE 20**N-(Trimethylacetyl)-O-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-tyrosine**

Prepared from the compound of Example 19 by ester hydrolysis using a similar method to the compound of Example 5 to yield a white solid. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 8.70 (2H, s), 7.45 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 7.16 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 6.94 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.6Hz), 5.18 (2H, s), 4.39-4.34 (1H, m), 3.03 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 4.6Hz), 2.91 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 9.9Hz), 1.00 (9H, s); m/z (ESI, 60V) 325 (M^+ +H).

EXAMPLE 21**N-(ⁿButylsulphonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

ⁿButanesulphonyl chloride (0.17ml, 1.3mmol) was added to a solution of Intermediate 1 (500mg, 1.24mmol) and diisopropylethylamine (0.7ml,

3.9mmol) in dichloromethane (10ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16h at room temperature, then washed with citric acid (10%), aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (SiO₂; ethyl acetate/hexane, 3:1) gave the title compound (120mg). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.88 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, s), 7.80 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.9Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.3Hz), 7.30 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.3Hz), 4.10 (1H, m), 3.67 (3H, s), 3.02 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 4.8Hz), 2.77 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 10.1Hz), 2.60 (2H, t, \downarrow 8.3Hz), 1.22 (4H, m), 0.76 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.2Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 488 ($M^+ + H$).

10 EXAMPLE 22

N-(β -Butylsulphonyl)-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine

Prepared from the compound of Example 21 by ester hydrolysis using a similar method to the compound of Example 5 to yield a white solid. m.p. 252-254°. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 12.86 (1H, br s), 10.87 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, s), 7.59 (3H, m + d \downarrow 4.4Hz), 7.30 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 3.98 (1H, m), 3.04 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 4.7Hz), 2.75 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 10.2Hz), 2.56 (2H, m), 1.20 (4H, m), 0.76 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.2Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 474 ($M^+ + H$).

20 EXAMPLE 23

N-(α -Sulphonyltoluene)-*O*-(2,6-dichlorobenzyl)-*L*-tyrosine methyl ester

To *O*-(2,6-dichlorobenzyl)-*L*-tyrosine methyl ester hydrochloride (0.5gm, 1.3mmol) in ethyl acetate (10ml), was added saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (5ml). The mixture was stirred for 15 min before isolating the organic layer and extracting the aqueous layer with ethyl acetate (3 x 3ml). The combined organic solutions were washed with brine (2 x 5ml), dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (3ml) and cooled in an ice/water bath before the dropwise addition of α -toluene sulphonyl chloride (243mg, 1.3mmol). After complete addition the cooling bath was removed and the solution stirred at room temperature for 16h, before pouring onto water (30ml) and extracting the product with ethyl acetate (2 x 20ml). The combined extracts were washed with water (3 x 10ml), dried (MgSO₄), and solvent removed *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (SiO₂, ethyl acetate/hexane, 1:1) gave the title compound as a viscous yellow oil. δ_H (CD₃OD) 7.36-7.20 (4H, m), 7.00 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.8Hz), 6.90 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.8Hz),

4.74 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.9Hz), 4.1 (3H, m), 3.72 (3H, s), 2.94 (2H, d, \downarrow 5.9Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 525 (NH₄ adduct).

EXAMPLE 24

5 N-(α -Sulphonyltoluene)-O-(2,6-dichlorobenzyl)-L-tyrosine

To the compound of Example 23 (220mg, 0.43mmol) dissolved in water (5ml) and tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was added lithium hydroxide monohydrate (27mg, 1.5equiv). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 2h. The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue dissolved in water. This solution was acidified with dilute hydrochloric acid and the product extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 5ml), the combined extracts were washed with water (2 x 4ml), dried (Mg₂SO₄), and the solvent removed to yield the title compound as a white powder. δ_H (CDCl₃) 7.35-7.21 (8H, m), 7.1 (2H, d, \downarrow 7.7Hz), 6.9 (2H, d, \downarrow 7.7Hz), 4.6 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.9Hz), 4.1 (3H, m), 3.0 (2H, m). m/z (ESI 60V) 511 (NH₄ adduct).

EXAMPLE 25

N-(n Propanesulphonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

20 The title compound was prepared as a white solid from Intermediate 1 and propanesulphonyl chloride in a similar manner to the compound of Example 21. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.87 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 7.81 (1H, d, \downarrow 9.0Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 4.09 (1H, br m), 3.67 (3H, s), 3.04 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 5.3Hz), 2.78 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 9.8Hz), 2.59 (2H, m), 1.42-1.30 (2H, br m) and 0.76 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.3Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 474 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 26

N-(n Propanesulphonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine

30 Prepared from the compound of Example 25 by ester hydrolysis in a similar manner to the compound of Example to yield a white solid. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.86 (1H, s), 8.78 (2H, s), 7.58 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.3Hz), 7.30 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.3Hz), 3.98 (1H, m), 3.03 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 6.9Hz), 2.76 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 9.1Hz), 2.58 (2H, m), 1.44-1.32 (2H, m) and 0.76 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.4Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V), 460 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 27**N-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

- 5 Benzyl chloroformate (0.32ml, 2.22mmol) was added to a solution of Intermediate 1 (750mg, 1.85mmol) diisopropylethylamine (0.81ml, 4.64mmol) and dimethylaminopyridine (catalytic) in dichloromethane (20ml) at 0°. The reaction mixture was stirred for 48h at room temperature, then washed with citric acid (10%), aqueous NaHCO₃ and
- 10 brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give an oil solid. Trituration (ethyl acetate/hexane, 1:1) gave the title compound as a white solid (225mg). δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 10.88 (1H, s), 8.80 (2H, s), 7.82 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.2Hz), 7.57 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.32 (7H, m), 4.98 (2H, s), 4.28 (1H, m), 3.65 (3H, s), 3.05 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 4.9Hz), 2.85 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 10.3Hz);
- 15 m/z (ESI, 60V) 502 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 28**N-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisoxonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

- 20 Prepared from the compound of Example 27 by ester hydrolysis in a similar manner to the compound of Example 5. δ_H (d⁶ DMSO) 12.72 (1H, br s), 10.87 (1H, s), 8.80 (2H, s), 7.65 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.57 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.28 (7H, m), 4.19 (1H, m), 3.06 (1H, dd, \downarrow 15.0, 5.5Hz), 2.82 (1H, dd, \downarrow 15.0, 10.5Hz); m/z (ESI, 160V) 488 ($M^+ + H$).

25

EXAMPLE 29**N-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

- Prepared as an off-white solid from Intermediate 1 and ethyl chloroformate
- 30 in a similar manner to the compound of Example 27. δ_H (CDCl₃) 8.56 (2H, s), 7.63 (1H, br s), 7.54 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.16 (2H, m), 5.16 (1H, br s), 4.64 (1H, m), 4.10 (2H, q, \downarrow 7.1Hz), 3.75 (3H, s), 3.11 (2H, m), 1.23 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.1Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 440 ($M^+ + H$).

EXAMPLE 30**N-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

Prepared as a white solid from the compound of Example 30 by ester hydrolysis in a similar manner to the compound of Example 5. δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 10.86 (1H, s), 8.79 (2H, d, \downarrow 0.74Hz), 7.56 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 7.41 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 7.26 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz), 4.13 (1H, m), 3.93 (2H, m), 3.03 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 4.5Hz), 2.80 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.6, 10.6Hz), 1.12 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.1Hz); m/z (ESI, 60V) 426 ($M^+ + H$).

10

EXAMPLE 31**N-(1-Adamantylcarbonyl)-N'-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester**

Prepared as a white solid from N'-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride and 1-adamantanecarbonyl chloride by a method similar to that of Example 1. δ_H ($CDCl_3$) 7.5 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 7.5-7.3 (4H, m), 7.1 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz), 6.1 (1H, broad d), 4.8 (1H, m), 3.7 (3H, s), 3.1 (2H, m), 2.0 (3H, broad s), 1.8 (6H, broad s), 1.7 (6H, broad s). m/z (ESI 60V) 529 ($M^+ + H$).

20

EXAMPLE 32**N-(1-Adamantylcarbonyl)-N'-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

Prepared from the compound of Example 31 by ester hydrolysis in a similar manner to the compound of Example 5. δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 10.6 (1H, s), 7.7-7.3 (5H, m), 7.2 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.2Hz), 4.5-4.3 (1H, m), 3.2-2.9 (2H, m), 2.0 (3H, broad s), 1.8-1.6 (12H, two broad s). m/z (ESI 60V) 515 ($M^+ + H$).

The following compounds of Examples 33 and 34 were prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding ester in a similar manner to the compound of Example 5:

EXAMPLE 33**N-(2,6-Dichlorophenylacetyl)-N'-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine**

35

The ester starting material was prepared from *N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride and 2,6-dichlorophenylacetyl chloride by a method similar to that of Example 1. δ_{H} (d^6 DMSO) 10.66 (1H, s, NH), 8.37 (1H, dd, \downarrow 8.1Hz, NH), 7.60-7.20 (10H, m, Ar-H), 4.42 (1H, m, α -CH), 3.79 (2H, m, CH₂Ar), 3.05 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.7, 5.0Hz, CHCH_AH_B), 2.98 (1H, m, CHCH_AH_B). m/z (ESI, 60V) 538 (MH⁺).

EXAMPLE 34

10 *N*-(Diphenylacetyl)-*N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenyl alanine

The ester starting material was prepared from *N'*-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride and diphenylacetyl chloride by a method similar to that of Example 1. δ_{H} (d^6 DMSO) 10.67 (1H, s, NH), 8.55 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.2Hz, NH), 7.61-6.97 (17H, m, Ar-H), 5.01 (1H, s, CHAr₂), 4.53 (1H, m, α -CH), 3.05 (1H, m, CHCH_AH_B), 2.84 (1H, m, CHCH_AH_B). m/z (ESI, 60V), 547 (MH⁺).

EXAMPLE 35

20 *N*-(Ethylaminocarbonyl)-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine methyl ester

A solution of Intermediate 1 hydrochloride (0.39g, 1mmol) and NMM (0.13ml, 1.2mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was treated with ethyl isocyanate (0.079ml, 1.1mmol) and the reaction stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane (20ml) and water (20ml), the aqueous layer extracted with dichloromethane (20ml) and the combined organic layers dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a white solid, 0.29, 66% which was used without further purification.

EXAMPLE 36

35 *N*-(Ethylaminocarbonyl)-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine

A solution of the compound of Example 35 (0.29g, 0.66mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (5ml) and water (5ml) was treated with LiOH.H₂O (42mg, 1.0mmol) and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture

was acidified to pH 1 with 10% hydrochloric acid and the resulting white solid isolated by filtration, washed with water (2 x 10ml) and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound 0.22g, 78%. δ_H (d^6 DMSO) 10.87 (1H, s, NH), 8.79 (2H, s, pyr-H), 7.97 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz, Ar-H), 7.19 (2H, d, \downarrow 8.5Hz, Ar-H), 6.04 (1H, m, NH₂Et), 5.97 (1H, d, \downarrow 8.4Hz, CHNH), 4.34 (1H, m, α -CH), 3.02-2.94 (3H, m, CHCH₂AB + CH₂CH₃), 2.85 (1H, dd, \downarrow 13.8, 7.6Hz, CHCH₂AB), 0.96 (3H, t, \downarrow 7.2Hz, CH₂CH₃). m/z (ESI, 70V) 425 (MH⁺).

- 10 The following assays can be used to demonstrate the potency and selectivity of the compounds according to the invention. In each of these assays an IC₅₀ value was determined for each test compound and represents the concentration of compound necessary to achieve 50% inhibition of cell adhesion where 100% = adhesion assessed in the absence of the test compound and 0% = absorbance in wells that did not receive cells.

$\alpha_4\beta_1$ Integrin-dependent Jurkat cell adhesion to VCAM-Ig

- 96 well NUNC plates were coated with F(ab)₂ fragment goat anti-human IgG Fc γ -specific antibody [Jackson Immuno Research 109-006-098: 100 μ l at 2 μ g/ml in 0.1M NaHCO₃, pH 8.4], overnight at 4°. The plates were washed (3x) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and then blocked for 1h in PBS/1% BSA at room temperature on a rocking platform. After washing (3x in PBS) 9 ng/ml of purified 2d VCAM-Ig diluted in PBS/1% BSA was added and the plates left for 60 minutes at room temperature on a rocking platform. The plates were washed (3x in PBS) and the assay then performed at 37° for 30 min in a total volume of 200 μ l containing 2.5×10^5 Jurkat cells in the presence or absence of titrated test compounds.
- Each plate was washed (2x) with medium and the adherent cells were fixed with 100 μ l methanol for 10 minutes followed by another wash. 100 μ l 0.25% Rose Bengal (Sigma R4507) in PBS was added for 5 minutes at room temperature and the plates washed (3x) in PBS. 100 μ l 50% (v/v) ethanol in PBS was added and the plates left for 60min after which the absorbance (570nm) was measured.

$\alpha_4\beta_7$ Integrin-dependent JY cell adhesion to MAdCAM-Ig

- This assay was performed in the same manner as the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ assay except that MAdCAM-Ig (150ng/ml) was used in place of 2d VCAM-Ig and a sub-
 5 line of the β -lympho blastoid cell-line JY was used in place of Jurkat cells. The IC₅₀ value for each test compound was determined as described in the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin assay.

$\alpha_5\beta_1$ Integrin-dependent K562 cell adhesion to fibronectin

- 10 96 well tissue culture plates were coated with human plasma fibronectin (Sigma F0895) at 5 μ g/ml in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for 2 hr at 37°C. The plates were washed (3x in PBS) and then blocked for 1h in 100 μ l PBS/1% BSA at room temperature on a rocking platform. The
 15 blocked plates were washed (3x in PBS) and the assay then performed at 37°C in a total volume of 200 μ l containing 2.5x 10⁵ K562 cells, phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate at 10ng/ml, and in the presence or absence of titrated test compounds. Incubation time was 30 minutes. Each plate was fixed and stained as described in the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ assay above.

$\alpha_m\beta_2$ -dependent human polymorphonuclear neutrophils adhesion to plastic

- 20 96 well tissue culture plates were coated with RPMI 1640/10% FCS for 2h at 37°C. 2 x 10⁵ freshly isolated human venous polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMN) were added to the wells in a total volume of 200 μ l in the
 25 presence of 10ng/ml phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate, and in the presence or absence of test compounds, and incubated for 20min at 37°C followed by 30min at room temperature. The plates were washed in medium and 100 μ l 0.1% (w/v) HMB (hexadecyl trimethyl ammonium bromide, Sigma H5882) in 0.05M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 6.0 added to each well.
 30 The plates were then left on a rocker at room temperature for 60 min. Endogenous peroxidase activity was then assessed using tetramethyl benzidine (TMB) as follows: PMN lysate samples mixed with 0.22% H₂O₂ (Sigma) and 50 μ g/ml TMB (Boehringer Mannheim) in 0.1M sodium acetate/citrate buffer, pH 6.0 and absorbance measured at 630nm.

α IIb/ β ₃-dependent human platelet aggregation

Human platelet aggregation was assessed using impedance aggregation on the Chronolog Whole Blood Lumiaggregometer. Human platelet-rich plasma (PRP) was obtained by spinning fresh human venous blood anticoagulated with 0.38% (v/v) tri-sodium citrate at 220xg for 10 min and diluted to a cell density of 6×10^8 /ml in autologous plasma. Cuvettes contained equal volumes of PRP and filtered Tyrode's buffer (g/liter: NaCl 8.0; MgCl₂.H₂O 0.427; CaCl₂ 0.2; KCl 0.2; D-glucose 1.0; NaHCO₃ 1.0; NaHPO₄.2H₂O 0.065). Aggregation was monitored following addition of 2.5 μ M ADP (Sigma) in the presence or absence of inhibitors.

In the above assays the compounds of the invention generally have IC₅₀ values in the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and $\alpha_4\beta_7$ assays of 1 μ M and below. The compounds of the Examples typically had IC₅₀ values of 100nM and below in these assays and demonstrated selective inhibition of $\alpha_4\beta_1$. In the other assays featuring α integrins of other subgroups the same compounds had IC₅₀ values of 50 μ M and above thus demonstrating the potency and selectivity of their action against α_4 integrins.